



**KIPS BAY
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

Executive Director



Daniel Quintero

When Daniel Quintero left his job as Regional Service Director of Boys & Girls Clubs of America to become Executive Director of Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club in the fall of 1996, he was truly coming home. In 1970, when Dan was ten years old, he joined the Kips Bay Boys Club, which had relocated to the Bronx from 52nd Street in Manhattan only months before.

For the next eight years Dan utilized his Club to the fullest. He played in pool tournaments and on the ping-pong team, and found, in baseball, a passion. Older club members became his role models. He worked as a locker room attendant and in the physical education department as a program aide. Then, as now, Dan was a leader with a commitment to excellence. He was president of the Junior Leaders, coached baseball, and was “Athlete of the Year” in 1976. With encouragement and counseling from staff, Dan entered Wagner College after high school graduation. He completed his studies at Lehman College, majored in health education, and continued to excel at baseball.

Drafted by the Kansas City Royals, Dan played three years of professional baseball. Reflecting on that experience, Dan says, it was the will to excel and determination to never give up that he learned at Kips Bay which sustained him in competition with world-class athletes.

Dan returned to the Boys & Girls Club Movement professionally in 1984, joining the staff of Madison Square Boys & Girls Club. He served there 10 years, the last four as director of Madison’s Hoe Avenue Clubhouse in the South Bronx. In 1993, Dan became a Regional Service Director at Boys & Girls Clubs of America’s Northeast Regional Office. There he compiled an extraordinary record of creating 21 Boys & Girls Clubs.

Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club, already an indispensable Bronx institution, has reached new heights under Dan’s tenure.

- One of the first additions was a dedicated teen center to not only recruit more teenagers, but also retain those participating.
- In keeping with the digital technology evolution, the Club added technology centers in all the education departments, equipped with new computer stations complete with Internet access.
- Dan has been very active in reaching out to, and collaborating with, the local community, public officials and the faith community to expand the services provided by Kips Bay.
- He expanded services to children in other areas of the Bronx. In 1998 Kips Bay opened two new programs on-site at two homeless facilities in the Bronx near Crotona Park and Claremont Park respectively. Each year, more than 500 youngsters benefit from Kips Bay's services at these sites. School-based sites remained an integral part of the services, providing after-school and summer programming for those local communities.
- Over the last 15 years, Dan has been instrumental in raising more than \$18 million in public funds to either build or renovate clubs.
- Growth is the hallmark of Dan's tenure. In 2002 the Club built the Bronx' only ice rink and an air-supported sports dome on the flagship Lucile Palmaro Clubhouse grounds. An on-site dental clinic was also added to serve both club members and the community. In 2005 Kips Bay acquired the Castle Hill and Throggs Neck Houses Community Centers providing essential enrichment programs and educational activities to these densely populated and underserved communities. In 2006 Kips Bay added Camp Sebago in Harriman State Park in order to offer the time-honored benefits of rustic camping to more than 1,000 youngsters each summer. Annual enrollment at Kips Bay exceeded 10,000 in program year 2016, more than double the total since Dan arrived as Executive Director in 1996.
- The Frederic R. & Margaret Coudert Clubhouse opened in the West Bronx during the summer of 2010, bringing the first, and still only, Boys & Girls Club programming to the West Bronx Heights. This multi-million, 28,000 square foot facility now serves 1,500 youngsters annually.
- Among recent programs, that help fulfill our mission of reaching those youngsters who come from disadvantaged and disenfranchised circumstances, is our immigrant initiative. In 2010 the U. S. Census Bureau called the Bronx the most diversified county in America. We have brought grass roots soccer programs led by voluntary youth leaders from Honduras, Mexico and Ecuador into Kips Bay, and are now enrolling these youngsters in education, career exploration, empowerment programming and more. Kips Bay also hosts interfaith events on a regular basis including guests from the nearby Islamic Leadership School and Masjid Al-Iman Mosque, the Solomon Schechter School in Manhattan and the Museum of Jewish Heritage.
- In 2015 Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club celebrated its 100th anniversary. To mark this centennial, Dan lead a campaign entitled "Great Futures: The Next 100 Years", with a funding goal of \$7,500,000. These funds were designated for the endowment; education programming; and enhancing clubhouse facilities for the cadet membership, including a new digital and fine arts center in the flagship Lucile Palmaro Clubhouse.

A life of vision and commitment Dan's goal is to continue to provide comprehensive services to children in the Bronx, and to expose as many youngsters as possible to the great programs that

molded and impacted his life. The Pulitzer Prize winning educator Robert Coles declared, “We must form the character and sharpen the awareness of youth during those critical early years when moral development can be influenced most.” This is why, along with empowering and educating children for the future, Kips Bay helps young people find their moral compass.

In educating our children in basic character development, we can teach them to be as compassionate as they will be successful. If we don't do this, all the prosperity in the world isn't going to produce a worthwhile human being. Dan credits his Mom and Dad for providing a Christian foundation for his life and, today, is an active member of his local church along with his wife Maribel, and three children, Danielle, Francesca and Evan.